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Newsletter

Number 04

24 February 2012



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

- .. To those parents who attended this week's Keeping Ourselves Safe meeting.
- .. Those awesome parents who supported our tennis team this week.
- .. Chris & Sharon Martin, Jo Bruncker, Teresa Dunn, Sharon Smith and Cherie Finlayson for assisting with timing of swimming heats this week.
- .. Those fantastic parents who assisted with the term headlice inspection.

People of the week

- .. Our parent helpers who started their work in rooms this week.
- .. Caitlin who was a great help to Mr T this week in promoting the school garden club.
- .. Darius and Ashton who have been writing the most fantastic stories lately.
- .. Rylee for being such a big help for mum while her arm is in plaster.
- .. Those children who represented us at this week's tennis tournament at Thomas Neale Courts - Liam, Bronson, Campbell, Jamahl, Jared, James, Brad, Max, Hazel and Laura. Special congratulations to Liam and Bronson who achieved second place in the senior boys section and to Jamahl and Jared for winning the plate. WELL DONE TO YOU ALL!

Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.

Board of Trustees .. Casual Vacancy for an Elected Trustee

A casual vacancy has occurred on the Board of Trustees for an elected parent representative. The board has resolved under section 105 of the Education Act 1989 to fill the vacancy by selection.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the board to hold a by-election should write to:

Chairperson, Board of Trustees (C/o the school) **by: 16 March please.**

Term Events

- .. coming events in brief.
- 27/28 Feb Parent/teacher/student conferences
- 29 Feb Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
- 13 March Keeping Ourselves Safe programme under way (2 weeks)
- 13 March Interschool Swimming Competitions (W.I.S.) pp 20.3
- 15 March School Swimming Sports
- 21 March Year 7/8 team triathlon (Marsden Cove)
- 22 March Year 7/8 HPV and tetanus vaccinations
- 25 March Year 7/8 individual triathlon (Onerahi Foreshore)
- 5 April Final day term 1

Indicator Reports

An Indicator Report was sent home today with your child along with their Learner Journey Sheet. These reports identify areas of strength, and areas needing development, and are a rich source of ideas for goal setting. They also constitute a useful "where to next" check list for you and your child.

Parents are asked to please ..

.. read over the Indicator Report(s) with their child(ren)

.. read over their Learner Journey sheets and **pencil in** any thoughts

.. bring the Indicator Report and Learner Journey Sheet to conferences (27 and 28 Feb)

Please contact/drop by the office at any stage if you have questions or need assistance interpreting these reports. The Indicator Reports point you and your child to learning areas that might be a personal priority for them over 2012. These areas are compiled from lists by well respected experts in these fields and have been carefully aligned to the new National Standards.

(Please note that in a small number of cases students may have few or no indicators in beginning or advanced sections of these reports - in these cases teachers may provide you with alternative lists from which to select target areas).

Middle & Senior Duathlon

We are pleased to announce that the Matarau School Middle and Senior Duathlons will take place as follows ..

- Individual Duathlon 12:35 Friday 2 March

- Teams Duathlon 12:35 Monday 5 March

Please encourage your child(ren)s participation and come along and support on the day. Bikes may be left at school over the weekend.

Zone Swimming Sports - 1.3 (pp 5.3) - at Purua School this year

Parents are asked to ensure that children attending this event (selected from time trials this week) bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships to be held on 15 March - more to follow)

School Swimming Sports - 15.3

Our School Swimming Sports takes place Thursday 15 March and so you might like to pencil this in to your diaries. Events run most of the day culminating in a junior demonstration, relays and acknowledgements at the end of the day. You, and extended family, are invited to share this day with us - more details to follow.

This year's School Swimming Sports will be sponsored by Omak Meats

Term Headlice Inspection

Recent checks indicated moderate levels of infestation. If you received advice of infestation (or suspected infestation) please take action before your child returns to school on Monday. Children will be re-checked next week. From this point forward parents are asked to check their children's hair weekly please.

International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions will be sent out shortly. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. Last year a significant number of children did few or no practice tests in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible onboard for these but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

Bus Children - High Visibility Vests

We have noticed that the number of bus children wearing their high visibility vests this year has dropped markedly on last year. These vests are a significant step we can all take to raise the level of safety of those children while walking to and from (or waiting at) bus stops. Please ensure your child has their vest on before they head off in the morning, and we will try our best to ensure they put it on at the end of the day.

At a recent assembly children were reminded of the importance of walking away from the roadside, wearing their vest, not playing at the roadside etc - please reinforce this at home and let us know of any great road safety behaviour.

School Phone

Please use the options now when phoning in as this greatly helps the workload of office staff. We assure you the answer phones are checked in a timely fashion.

Keeping Ourselves Safe

.. starts in classes week beginning 12 March. Please show an interest in what your child is doing and make what they have done a point of discussion in the evening. The programme will particularly focus on what constitutes safe and unsafe behaviour and where to go / what to do when you need help. Children will be taught correct terms for body parts and will be taught to distinguish between good and bad touching. The programme will be facilitated by Jasmine Blundle the Police Education Officer. Jasmine is happy to have parents sit in - just see your child's teacher for times.

School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee / Spelling Books

If you have not yet paid please forward payment for the above to school at your earliest convenience or contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

Bike helmets

Please ensure children wear their bike helmets at all times when using their bikes (and ESPECIALLY if cycling to school).

Sausage Sizzle

Up and running on a Wednesday. Cost \$1.50 per sausage. Money to senior school fund-raising.

Disabled Parking Areas

.. please ensure the disabled parking areas are used only for this purpose.

School Assemblies

We have assemblies on Monday around 2:30 - 2:40 each **even** week (e.g. 5 March / 19 March etc.). Parents are most welcome to join us for these assemblies. Please let the office know (if you can) if you will be attending.

School Garden

Participation consents were sent home this week with interested children. We have extended the date for return to Monday 27. Please note that children participating in this programme will need to have the staying power and discipline to dedicate half an hour of their Wednesday lunchtime, and then will be allowed to remain for the next half hour of class time. This really is a good opportunity to learn some life skills and to keep fit and active. We are extremely grateful to Robyn McKegg and Sonia Dodds for leading this group.

Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews) - 27 and 28 Feb

Confirmation of appointment times were sent home this week. If you did not receive this confirmation please give the office a call on Monday morning. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (attendance optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 27 and 28 Feb because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

PMP

We would really appreciate further offers to assist with this important programme. If able to help please give Mrs Robertson a call. PMP takes place every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon - even if you can help on one of these afternoons it enables us to give existing parent helpers the occasional break.

Pool Keys

Those 2011 key holders who received an invoice for key hire for 2012 are asked to pay no later than next week please or to return their key. Many thanks.

Medications - EXPIRY DATES

Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next week to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary. If unsure give the office a call.

After School Care

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting www.skids.co.nz or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC. The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and large subsidies are available to most users. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the office.

Scholastic Book Orders .. All orders and money to the office by Wednesday 29th February.

Guitar Lessons

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

Friday Lunches

Order forms are available from the office. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

Monday Lunches

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

Swan Plants - Available at the School Office. Gold coin donation. All proceeds to the School.

Homework

Homework is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights homework a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from homework altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing homework. **If you do NOT want your child to receive homework please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular homework routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).

School charter

A summary of our 2012 school charter is now on our website (board tab) for those interested and hard copies are available from the school office. This identifies some of the areas of special focus for this year. Kevin is more than happy to discuss this with any interested parties.

Final thought

"Don't worry .. be happy! (From Brenda)

Regards
Kevin Trehwella
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your
children, please support them



A Message from our SKIDS Team

Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!

Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Abby or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at www.skids.co.nz

Lost

.. Girls Size 14 light green rash top with the word "Angel" written down the side in white. If you have seen it or know where it is could you please tell Kayla Sinclair in Room 11.

.. Boys Size 14 dark blue togs (Zoggs) with a light blue side panel. If you have come across these, please hand into the office.

Community Notices

For Rent - small, furnished accommodation available, on the Matarau School bus route. Please contact Jan 433 5000 or 0273190273.

For Rent – Sunny modern 3 bedroom hse with garage & carport on our farm, \$200 per wk. Pullin Rd, Purua. Ph Rhys on 027089788.

Wanted – Painted asap, experience necessary. Part time could lead into full time work. Ph 04336040 a/h or 0274539391.

House Cleaner – Available. Super efficient, references available. Reasonable rate, min 2 hrs. Ph 4338185 or 0272086195.

Free – to a good home, 4yr old female cat, all fixed up. Likes being outside. Please contact School Office 4335823.

Babysitting jobs wanted – 2 reliable teenage girls with experience, aged 17 and 14yrs, \$50 up till 11pm, negotiable after that time, preferably Kamo/Matarau/Ruatangata areas. Phone Michele or Holly on 09 4335735 or 0276100303.

Firewood for sale – totara & gum, split and ready to go, \$70/cubic metre. Also kindling per bag. Fundraiser for 15yr old boy attending National Junior Motocross champs in Timaru in April. Phone Steve or Cameron Duckmanton 4335735 evenings.

Understanding Epilepsy Seminars – What is Epilepsy, What causes Epilepsy? Triggers, Medication, First Aid, etc, for more info contact 4385498 or 0800202122 or email northland@epilepsy.org.nz.

Parenting Programme – Growing behaviours & nurturing potential, Six free sessions, Thur 23 Feb, 1 Mar & 8 Mar, Manaia View School, Whangarei, Register Jigsaw North 4388852 or School Office 4389041.

Quarry Arts Centre – Picnic, food, music from 7pm, 8-25 Feb, Tickets \$12/\$17, available from Venue and Himalayan Trading Post. Ph 4384453 or www.nty.org.nz

Girls Brigade – Available to all girls 5-17 yrs old, Programme enables girls to have fun, develop friendships, learn and extend skills, meet challengers and have new opportunities. For more info contact Sheryn Comrie, 4335756.

Dance Inc Northland – Limited spaces available in Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary & Musical Theatre. Ph 4308806 or visit www.danceincnorthland.co.nz or email danceincnorthland@gmail.com.

Kamo Soccer – Taking registrations for children 5 and up. Midweek practices at Kauri School available with teams affiliated with Kamo Soccer. For more info ph Annette Hayes on 4355106 or 0212654835

Kamo JMB Rugby – Registration day for all grades JBN to JB9, Wednesday 7th March, 5.00-7.00pm, Kamo Rugby Clubrooms, Butler Pl, Kamo.



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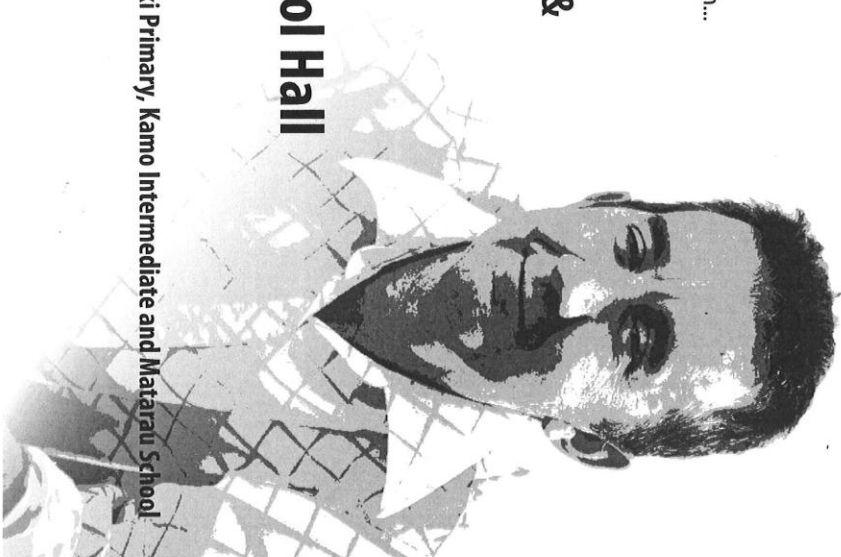
1 March 2012

7:30 - 9:30pm Kamo High School Hall

\$25

Tickets available from Kamo High School, Kamo Primary, Hurupaki Primary, Kamo Intermediate and Matarau School

NOTE: CONTAINS OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE



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